



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Linda Potter or Paul Rothman
502-564-6940**

Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative Join J.W. Resources for Arbor Day Celebration

Students plant tree seedlings on a surface coal mine to promote reforestation

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 26, 2013) – J.W. Resources, a recipient of the prestigious 2012 Excellence in Reclamation Award, hosted the 2013 Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) Arbor Day event on one of its surface mining operations near the community of Stoney Fork in Bell County.

J. W. Resources, the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources (DNR), the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM), ARRI, the American Chestnut Foundation, Treecycler and the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) co-sponsored the celebration to showcase partnerships that promote the planting of high-value hardwood trees on mined lands in Appalachia. The groups jointly endorse the use of current day reforestation techniques that can properly restore reclaimed surface mines back to a beneficial multi-purpose post mining land use.

During the event, DNR Deputy Commissioner Larry Arnett noted, "This event is a reflection of the company's continuing commitment to environmental stewardship and a wonderful opportunity to encourage these students to protect and cherish Kentucky's natural resources."

The annual Arbor Day celebration provides an educational opportunity for future Kentuckians to appreciate the environmental benefits of forests throughout the Appalachians. A number of elementary students and teachers from Right Fork Elementary School participated in the tree planting activities. Dr. Tammy

“Bee Lady” Horn and Michael French of The American Chestnut Foundation provided the students with presentations on honey bees and the American chestnut prior to the tree planting event.

The event took place on surface-mined land that is being reforested according to guidelines promoted by DNR through their “Kentucky Reforestation Initiative” guidelines. Once established, these new forests are capable of providing wildlife habitat, improve water quality, sequester carbon and mature into a valuable resource.

For the Arbor Day celebration, native hardwood seedlings including the American chestnut, northern red oak, white oak and green ash were planted.

###